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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, July 17, 1995, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1995

(Legislative day of Monday, July 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we thank You for this moment of quiet in which we can reaffirm who we are, whose we are and why we are here. Once again we commit ourselves to You as Sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. Our ultimate goal is to please and serve You. You have called us to be servant-leaders who glorify You in seeking to know and to do Your will in the unfolding of Your vision for America.

We spread out before You the specific decisions that must be made today. We claim Your presence all through the day. Guide our thinking and our speaking. May our convictions be based on undeniable truth which has been refined by You.

Bless the women and men of this Senate as they work together to find the best solutions to the problems before our Nation. Help them to draw on the supernatural resources of Your Spirit. Give them divine wisdom, penetrating discernment, and indomitable courage.

When the day draws to a close, may our deepest joy be that we received Your best for us and worked together for what is best for our Nation. In Your holy name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for not to exceed 3 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, thank you.

OUR NATION'S DEFENSES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I want to call to your attention an editorial which was in yesterday morning's Washington Post by Charles Krauthammer.

I think he best characterizes where we are today in terms of our Nation's defense—in this editorial—more than anything I have read recently. He talks about the problems that we have in our defense system.

I think several of us have been disturbed that this administration has stripped our defenses down to the bone. We are operating now on a budget that is about what it was in 1980 when we could not afford spare parts. There are several of us who believe that we could not fight two regional wars right now. We could not fight the Persian Gulf war as we did.

This Nation has to rebuild its defense system. Charles Krauthammer states three incontrovertible facts.

The first is, America is coming home. He points out that we are bringing from overseas our bases back to the

mainland of the United States. In 1960, we had 90 bases around the world. Today we have 17.

His second incontrovertible fact is that America cannot endure casualties. If you look at what is happening on CNN with the coverage on all of these humanitarian missions that are going on right now all over the world, we have more troops in more parts of the world right now on missions that have nothing to do with our Nation's security. We saw Captain O'Grady and how the entire Nation was watching him and hoping and praying for him. This is a concern that the entire Nation has; that we have a very low tolerance of casualties. Yet we look at Somalia. We had 18 Rangers that were killed there. And I have a great fear for what can happen in Bosnia.

The third fact is that America's next war will be a surprise. I think we all understand this. Certainly, Pearl Harbor was a surprise. The invasion of South Korea was a surprise. The Falklands war was a surprise. The next war will be a surprise, too.

To meet this criterion, what weapon, according to Charles Krauthammer, is the best one to do that? He says clearly it is to expand the B-2 bomber program—the B-2 bomber program—because, No. 1, it has the range; No. 2, it is invisible; and, No. 3, it is immediate. If you look at the Persian Gulf war, the F-117's, they had the invisible characteristics of a stealth fighter. Over 2 percent, I think, of the missions were flown by the F-117, and they got 40 percent of their targets.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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